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Quarterly Report
Third Quarter 2002

ACFA Advisory Board Meeting

Approximately 25 people attended the ACFA Advisory Board meeting on September 25, 2002 at the Ramada Inn in Columbia.

Dr. Slauter of the USDA talked about the Canine Care Workshops held throughout the Midwest and USDA's regulations pertaining to tethering dogs. Dr. Howard Pue from the Department of Health and Senior Services provided information about West Nile Virus in Missouri. It was announced Judi Riordan-Lolli is a new part-time inspector for the ACFA program.

Also discussed during the meeting were proposed ACFA rule changes. Some of these changes have been introduced with the intent of improving the quality of conditions for animals under licensees' care. Other changes have been proposed to improve the efficiency of the ACFA program. A formal process exists that will allow for public comments on the proposed changes before they can be adopted.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 11, 2002. All meetings are open to the public. The exact date, time, and location will be posted on the department's website, www.mda.state.mo.us, prior to the next meeting.

Members of the ACFA Advisory Board

The ACFA Advisory Board is made up of the following members:

(terms expiring 12/31/2002)

Anne Edward (Professional Cat Breeders)
Bonnie Schindler (Dealers/Brokers)
George Harding (Animal Control)
Rick Smith (Municipal Dog Pounds)
Vacant (Animal Shelters)
Dr. John Reinhold (Veterinarians)

(term expiring 12/31/2004)

Lynne Walters (Commercial Breeders)
Kay Kester-Oliver (Boarding Kennels)
Karen Strange (Hobby/Show Breeders)
Curt Ransom (Humane Organizations)
Lane Craig (Pet Shops)
Dr. Howard Pue (Dept. of Health)

ACFA Advisory Board members are selected to serve for two-year terms. Applicants to replace those whose terms are expiring will be appointed after the end of the calendar year and prior to the next advisory meeting. To apply, please send a cover letter stating your interest and qualifications to Missouri Department of Agriculture, ACFA Program, P.O. Box 630, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0630.

Dr. Woods and Dr. Eber Speak at MPBA Fall Seminar

State Veterinarian Dr. Taylor Woods and ACFA Program Veterinarian Dr. Jerry Eber were among a number of speakers at the Missouri Pet Breeders Association's Fall Seminar held in September.

Dr. Eber gave a presentation that demonstrated the need for bringing unlicensed activity to licensed standards. He stressed that unlicensed activity takes up a considerable amount of ACFA inspectors' time and that unlicensed entities are more likely to have a lower level of standards overall. Dr. Eber presented a slide show that exhibited conditions at two unlicensed facilities. In contrast, he asked people to compare these conditions to licensed kennels.

Dr. Woods also expressed concern for unlicensed activity and praised those that continually work to improve their businesses. In addition, Dr. Woods asked those in attendance to become involved with their local emergency management teams, citing the need for animal expertise if an animal crisis was ever to emerge within the United States.

Organizations such as the Missouri Pet Breeders and the Professional Pet Association regularly have educational seminars in which veterinarians and other professionals come and speak on animal health issues.

Ron Praiswater Speaks to Missouri Animal Control Association

Animal Health Officer Ron Praiswater spoke at the Missouri Animal Control / Humane Officer's Training Program in September. This is the fourth year Ron has presented to the group which represents animal control interests.

During his presentation, Ron explained how the ACFA program originated and handles inspections and gave an update on the number of facilities that are currently inspected. Ron also discussed the regulations pertaining to municipal animal shelters and what inspectors look for during inspections of animal shelters.

The training seminar is held annually and brings in speakers from across the state to present ideas relevant to animal control organizations within Missouri.

Dr. Eber To Speak at Operation SPOT

Dr. Jerry Eber will be the featured speaker at Operation SPOT's (Stop Pet Overpopulation Today) general meeting on October 16th. Dr. Eber will give a slide presentation explaining how the licensing process works. In addition, Dr. Eber plans to explain improvements made in the ACFA program since the state audit was released in February 2001.

Operation SPOT offers forums throughout the year concerning companion animal issues. The group is active in promoting spay and neuter programs in and around the St. Louis area. Operation SPOT is another example of an organization promoting animal health issues through forums and presentations. ACFA personnel have attended these forums regularly during the past year.

Frequently Asked Question:

How does somebody become licensed with the ACFA Program?

Licensing packets are mailed to interested parties on a daily basis. While there is no one rigid method for becoming licensed, we suggest the following steps in becoming licensed.

First, call the ACFA office at (573) 751-3076 and request a licensing packet. Our staff will send you a packet containing an application, program of veterinary care, and a copy of the ACFA regulations. You are required to complete the appropriate sections of the application as they relate to your operation. Your veterinarian is required to complete the program of veterinary care as it pertains to your operation. Your license fee will depend upon your license classification.

Once the appropriate paperwork has been filled out and the appropriate fees arranged, mail the information to our office at ACFA Program, P.O. Box 630, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0630. Our office staff will create a file for your operation, then forward your information to a member of our field staff, who will contact you to arrange for an inspection of your facility.

Next, you must pass a pre-license inspection without any deficiencies. All minimum standards must be met in order for our office to issue an initial license for your facility. You will be issued a license once we have received your paperwork, you have passed a pre-license inspection, and your funds have cleared.

Licensed entities are required to allow inspections during reasonable times, and you must renew your license each year. On the average, facilities are inspected once per year or upon complaint. Non-compliant items that are noted during a routine inspection should be addressed prior to the next consecutive inspection. If you have other questions, please contact the officer in your area or contact our office staff.

Census of ACFA Facilities

(As of September 5, 2002)

Commercial Breeders	1,269
Commercial Kennels	37
Boarding Kennels	121
Dealer/Broker	96
Pet Shops	73
Contract Kennels	17
Exhibitors	6
Hobby/Show Licensed	27
Hobby/Show Registered	260
Animal Shelters	80
Municipal Dog Pounds	208
Pet Sitters	8
Intermediate Handlers	7
Rescues	39
Out-of-State (all classes)	<u>26</u>
Total	2,276

Renewal Period

ACFA renewal packets will be mailed during the month of October. Applications for license/registration renewal are due on January 31, 2003.

We continue to have facilities that do not renew on a timely basis. We plan to address this issue by following up more aggressively with late renewals and enlisting the help of the Attorney General's office in collecting license applications and fees.

Please help our program work more efficiently by renewing your license or registration before the deadline. If you lose or do not receive your licensing packet, please request a new one at (573) 751-3076.

Equine Investigations Academy

Animal Health Officers Sabetha Purtle and Matt Rold attended Code 3 Associate's Equine Investigations Academy in August.

Topics covered by the class included body condition scoring, vet care, hoof and leg care, and legal aspects of equine investigations. Department of Agriculture personnel come into contact with thousands of horses each year through horse sales and exhibitions. The academy was attended by animal care professionals from across the country and is accredited by the University of Missouri.

Veterinary Care Workshop

The University of Missouri Extension Service is sponsoring two veterinary care workshops for any veterinarian involved in licensed kennel activity. The workshops will be held in Chillicothe on October 8 and in Springfield on October 9. The course is approved for continuing education credits.

Compliance Activity

Unfortunately, our staff continues to find animals kept in unacceptable situations. We continue to resolve these matters on an individual basis.

During the third quarter of 2002, ACFA staff required a commercial breeder in Callaway County to reduce the number of dogs on hand and build a new kennel prior to licensing. ACFA staff also helped remove animals from two Greene county animal collectors. An unlicensed breeder in Buchanan County is currently being monitored by our program, and we are working to resolve substandard conditions at a contract kennel in Franklin County. Two pet sitters that had evaded licensing requirements in the past have now licensed with the ACFA.

We would like to extend special thanks to the Humane Society of Missouri, the Professional Pet Association, and the USDA for the assistance they have provided during the past few months.

Commonly Cited Non-Compliant Items

Our new computer system allows us to look at the inspection process from a comprehensive perspective. With the use of this new program, statistics can be generated that will allow for review of trends and possible changes in policy. Listed below are the ACFA most commonly cited non-compliant items so far this year.

#1. Shelter from the elements in outdoor facilities. Items that may be cited under this heading involve accessibility to shelter and shade in situations where the temperature cannot be controlled. Wind and rain breaks around a shelter's entrance and bedding, when necessary, are also required under this rule.

#2. (tie) Structure and Construction. Housing facilities for dogs and cats must be structurally sound and in good repair. They must protect the animals from injury, contain the animals securely, and restrict other animals from entering.

#2. (tie) Veterinary Care. This item includes maintaining a current formal program of veterinary care, health records, and health certification. Animals requiring medical attention may also be noted under this item.